unknown cause it was deserted and being exposed to the wind and weather soon decreased in size until now it is a mere platform of sticks, but still a relic of former days. Probably some day it will be repaired and made use of.

The nest is usually placed in the upright branches of an elm or oak, eight to fifty feet above the ground. Of the thirty-five nests that I have so far found, two-thirds are yearly reoccupied, but whether by the same pair of birds, I am unable to say. The birds are always careful in selecting a position where they are enabled to view the entire surrounding country with ease. When an intruder approaches, the parent immediately leaves without the slightest noise and is lost to view for a time. After a short while it returns with its mate and both alight on some nearby tree and watch the proceedings with much interest. Sometimes they will even alight on the same tree that contains the nest, while the intruder is examining the same. Again I have seen both birds flying about overhead, constantly uttering a loud guttural sound. Of the thirty-five nests that have come under my observation, thirty were composed solely of broomweed and without a lining, two were built of broomweeds and small briars, while the remaining three were built of various substances, such as corn husks, small sticks, broomweed, mesquite twigs and the like. Sometimes old nests of hawks are appropriated. and to these are added a few broomstraws, or weeds. Two and three eggs are laid, two being the usual complement. Surely few hawk, eagle, or vulture eggs present a greater diversity in coloration. The usual color is a light brown, which is marbled and clouded with various shades of darker brown. Some eggs are solid brown, some have a light chocolate ground, spotted and clouded with various shades of darker brown, and again I have seen eggs of a rich reddish brown. If washed in water when fresh they will readily lose color, and become a dirty white. On one occasion I found a nest containing two eggs of this species which were almost white. They had been exposed to much rain for the entire coloring was washed off. Incubation was well advanced and on this account I was unable to preserve them. Three eggs in my cabinet collected March 1, 1902, have a light brown ground color spotted, streaked and clouded with a darker shade of brown. They measure respectively 2.19 by 1.74; 2.23 by 1.82; 2.12 by 1.82 inches. The picture accompanying this article was taken by the writer in April 1902 in Caldwell county. The nest contained one fresh egg, which was left undisturbed and after two days a full set was secured.

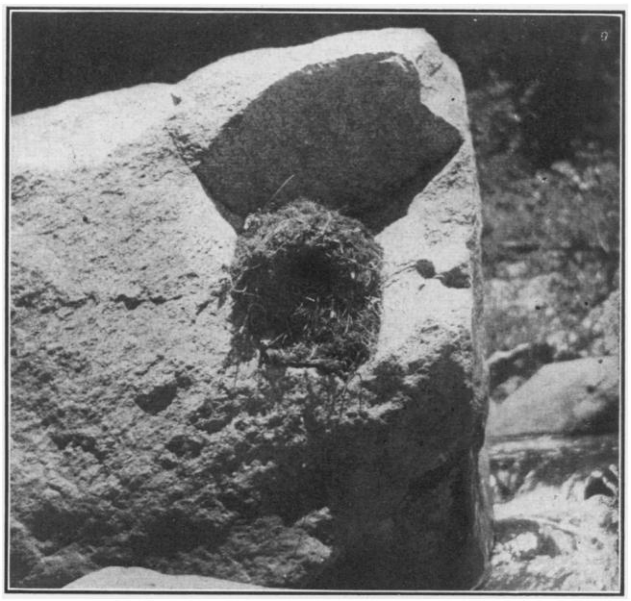
These birds do not thrive in captivity. I saw two in San Pedro Park, in San Antonio, last summer. They were in a very small cage and though full grown were much smaller than the birds which are at liberty. They were very active, and watched with much interest the people that were passing by.

FROM FIELD AND STUDY

Two Unusual Birds at Stanford University, Cal.—At the May meeting of the Cooper Club, Prof. John O. Snyder of Stanford University, exhibited a specimen and nest and eggs of the Sierra junco (*Junco h. thurberi*) which he had secured in the Stanford Arboretum. The nest was built between the loose bark and the trunk of an eucalyptus, several feet from the ground, a quite unusual position for a junco. One would naturally expect to find the Point Pinos junco, if any; but this specimen, compared with the type of the latter species turns out to be the inland bird. The other junco of the pair, or perhaps there is a little colony, was seen by the writer all through the spring, and as late as July 11, when it was observed perched head downward, drinking from a hydrant.

In the last issue of this magazine a little note was inserted stating that an olive-sided flycatcher (*Contopus borealis*) had taken up residence in the Stanford Arboretum. This bird, or

some other individual, was last seen June 26, perched on the topmost branch of a tall eucalyptus, where its loud call rang forth as in the coniferous forests of its usual summer home, the Transition and Canadian zones.—WALTER K. FISHER.



A WATER OUSEL'S NEST

A Water Ouzel's Nest.—The accompanying photograph of a water ouzel's nest (*Cinclus mexicanus*) was secured on the San Lorenzo, in Santa Cruz County, California. The nest was beautifully situated on the down-stream side of a big rock in the middle of rapids, where the water was boiling all around it. Although taken in 1897, the nest was so round and compactly built that it is in perfect shape to-day, and the moss has a green, fresh look. The inside of the nest is lined with twigs, strips of redwood bark, and bay leaves. —GEORGE S. TOWNE, *Palo Alto, Cal.*

Bell Sparrow (Amphispiza belli) in Santa Clara Co., California—On March 31, 1904, I took two specimens of Bell sparrow near the San Antonio Creek (locally known as Adobe Creek) in the foothills of Black Mountain (Monte Bello) Santa Clara Co., California. At least two others of the same species were seen, and since the specimens secured proved to be male and female adults, with sex organs well developed and enlarged, it is very probable that the species breeds here.—HUBERT O. JENKINS, *Stanford Univ., Cal.*

Nesting Habits of the Rock Wren.—Noting Mrs. Bailey's most interesting article on the rock wren (*Salpinctes obsoletus*) permit me herewith to quote a few lines on this interesting wren from my note book.

During the years of 1898 and 1899, while sojourning in San Antonio, Texas, it was my good fortune to run across a colony of eight or ten pairs of rock wrens. Near the head of the San Antonio River in the northern suburbs of the city where the land is broken, of a limestone formation with almost no surface soil and covered with prickly pear and laurel, is quite an extensive lime-stone quarry. This, with its immediate environs, is the home of the colony of rock wrens, and was where I located and examined thirteen nests as follows: *Nest 1*, April 2, 1898; building in crevice in wall of quarry 20 feet up, the male assisting in its construction. This nest now before me, and which is typical of this colony, is composed outwardly of weed stalks and dead grasses with a heavy layer of fine rootlets, the inner nest being fairly well cupped and heavily lined with grayish goat hair. Inside diameter of this nest is 2¾ inches with a depth of 1⅛ inches, the whole being placed in and upon a cup-shaped foundation or rim composed of numerous and various sized flat stones deposited by the birds, the interstices and uneven places on bottom of crevice being filled with these stones, forming a walk to the nest which was placed 8 inches in from face of wall. There must have been at least a half pint of these lime-stone chips, and it seems incredible how so small a bird with so slender a bill can carry stones of such a size and weight to such a height. Measurements of three of the larger stones before me are as follows: 2⅛ by ¾ by ¼; 1½ by 1 by ⅜; 1¾ by ¾ by 3-16. In weight they each run something over one-fourth of an ounce. On April 15th this nest contained 6 eggs.

Nest 2, April 2, building. This nest was placed in a small cavity in a pile of loose refuse rock and debris 3 feet up, the material being practically identical with that of No. 1. This nest rested in a cup-shaped foundation of flat stones. No signs of a walk existed, possibly owing to lack of space. On April 26th nest contained 6 newly hatched young. During incubation the male was quite wary but very attentive to his mate, taking her all the most choice morsels in the way of small beetles. On April 7th I was rewarded by locating three nests. *Nest 3* con-

tained 5 young about 5 days old, material and location practically the same as No. 1; nest foundation of stones and walk of stones extending about 10 inches. *Nest 4* contained 5 young 10 or 12 days old; nest placed in small cavity formed by root of tree 10 feet up in wall of quarry. Nest was typical, placed in shallow cup-shaped foundation of stones; no room in cavity for walk. *Nest 5* contained 6 young 10 or 12 days old. Nest was placed in cavity under boulders on bottom of quarry and had the usual stone foundation; two matches, a few splinters of wood, lining of black goat hair and considerable wool, especially round the rim; no sign of a walk. *Nest 6* contained 3 eggs; typical; location practically same as No. 5; cup-shaped foundation of rocks; no sign of a walk. *Nest 7*, April 8, 1899, containing 6 young, one week old; nest situated in crevice in wall of quarry; typical stone foundation and 9 inches of walk. *Nest 8*, April 11, containing 5 young a few days old. Nest typical, placed in cavity in wall of stone powder magazine; usual stone foundation; slight walk of stones. *Nest 9*, April 15, containing 5 fresh eggs; nest typical; location, foundation and walk same as No. 1. *Nest 10*, April 29; in a cavity formed by large rocks on bottom of quarry; nest typical, usual cup-shaped stone foundation, no sign of walk; 6 eggs. *Nest 11*, May 18, containing 7 eggs; nest, location and foundation same as No. 10; no sign of stone walk. *Nest 12*, June 3, containing 7 eggs; nest typical, placed in crevice in wall of quarry 10 feet up; usual foundation of stones, also 7 inch walk; evidently second nest of pair of birds, whose nest was located on April 8th. *Nest 13*, June 3, containing 7 eggs. This nest was typical, but the location was quite unusual, the structure being placed in a small waste or outlet pipe in an old open cistern. This pipe was 4 inches in diameter and about 3 feet from top of cistern. This nest had quite an extensive walk and stone foundation consisting of at least a pint of stones.

Summing up the above it will be seen that where the nests were located at the bottom of the quarry there was no attempt at building a walk, but when the nest was situated in a crevice the walk was invariably there provided. Of course there was room for it. In every case, however, the cup or saucer-shaped foundation was there. Query: could not this walk have been built to keep the young birds from falling into the crevices or getting their feet caught in same? I find that as a rule two broods are raised in a season and that their food consists to a large extent of a species of beetle which they find in the crevices of the rocks.

One interesting trait and one which I should judge to be purely local is their habit of dodging under a boulder or overhanging rock upon the loud report of a blast, and remaining there until the shower of falling rock is over. They are then among the first upon the ground, searching fearlessly among the Mexican quarrymen for such beetles as may have become exposed by the blast. They seem perfectly fearless of the quarrymen and the heavy cannonading, but on the appearance of a stranger they become quite perturbed and suspicious and very cautious in going to their nests. It was some days or even weeks before they permitted any familiarity whatever on my part. How they stand the terrific heat and glare in that quarry during July and August is a mystery to me.—PHILO W. SMITH, JR., *St. Louis, Mo.*

Melanism in Buteo borealis calurus.—While overhauling a number of Buteo skins a few months ago there was one which did not answer the tag *B. swainsoni*. On comparing it with some dark phases of *Buteo borealis calurus* of the last month's collecting I found this particular skin to be a beautiful melanistic phase of *calurus*. It is a female, number 1446, coll. W. O. E., Haywards., Cal., August 20, 1897. The general color of the plumage is a blackish brown over the whole body, with a purplish reflection on the back and wings; the edges of the feathers of the breast, belly and thighs washed with chestnut brown; thighs also sparsely mottled with the same color. The measurements are: length 22 inches, wing 17 inches; while another female taken December 18, 1903, measures 23¾ inches in length, wing 18¼ inches. This specimen compares more with some dark phases of *B. swainsoni*. The rufous tail is black-banded, twice as deep as in a typical red-tail, and is edged with same at end. The head and throat are rufous black, fore-breast more grayish, belly brownish black, thighs rufous, barred with black, wings dusky brown and black, edged and slightly barred with grayish white; upper and under tail-coverts similar to thighs. A slight purplish reflection is seen over the wings, but not so much as on the first bird described.

In a large series of these hawks there are rarely two out of five but show a difference in the plumage color. Seven out of twelve before me run either to a light or dark phase; some with grayish backs, others with dark brownish black or chestnut. The throat, breast and belly run from ochraceous gray to reddish brown, chestnut and yellowish white.—W. OTTO EMERSON, *Haywards, Cal.*

A Few Notes on Bird Life at Three Rivers, Tulare Co., Cal.—The varied thrushes have been here in numbers, and the plain titmouse (*Bæolophus inornatus*) is giving out its pleasant call: *wheetit, wheetit, wheetit.* Band-tailed pigeons (*Columba fasciata*) have been and

are plentiful here. They have taken their winter food from the live oak of the foothills (*Quercus wislizeni*); now they feed largely from manzanita buds. On February 10, I heard a noise which sounded like *coo, coo, coo,* and after a search I found a road-runner perched up in the branches of an oak tree. I recognized it as the author of the sounds I had heard. I suppose this is one of its love songs.

One of my young friends informed me that he saw a bird sitting in a nest at the eave of his house on the 23d of December, 1901. January 13 he looked in the nest and found four eggs nearly ready to hatch. Two weeks later they were hatched and gone. He informs me also that this same nest contained three broods of five birds each last summer. I think the bird is the Say phoebe (*Sayornis saya*). A friend of mine saved a nest of a hummingbird, probably *Calypte anna*, which had been built upon a small loop of rope, which was attached to one of the rafters of a shed. The nest was made of spiders' webs, and two young were hatched August 2, 1901, but they died. My friend at the same ranch reported finding a complete set of dove's eggs (*Zenaidura macroura*) February 27, 1902.—W. F. DEAN, *Three Rivers, Cal.*

NOTES AND NEWS

We have just received a letter from Mr. Grinnell dated Mt. Pinos, June 26. He says: "Here I am, on the slopes of Mt. Pinos, a state of existence which I have longed for, for many moons. And I am not disappointed either, in the wildness of it, nor in the animals so far secured, though there is a lamentable lack of water. We have been just ten days from Pasadena, loitering in Antelope Valley and Tejon Pass en route, To-day I climbed to the top of the peak and had a fine iew of the country all about, Tulare Lake, Sierra Nevada, Mojave Desert and the ocean. We are camped at 6500 feet." We shall leave the "animals" for Mr. Grinnell to detail later, as they are an interesting lot.

Mr. Edmund Heller writes from Juchitan, Oaxaca, Mexico, under date of April 23d: "Since writing you before, our instructions have been modified and we are now collecting both mammals and birds for the department of taxidermy. For the last month we have been at work on the dry side af the isthmus, in a country resembling in fauna and flora the deserts of California and Arizona." Mr. Heller is making natural history collections for the Field-Columbian Museum.

Mr. J. O. Snyder has left for an extensive fishing trip through the Klamath and Goose Lake Basins of southern Oregon.

The last of May we received a notice of the Spring Outing Meeting of the Southern Division, but have since heard nothing of the meeting itself. By the way, is the Secretary of the Southern Division on a protracted vacation? We have not received official minutes since March 1903.

We have heard unofficially that an Audubon Society has been organized in Pasadena, but have received no word from headquarters. Mr. Scott Way is secretary.

Mr. Hubert O. Jenkins has left for Mt. Whitney, to be gone the rest of the summer.

About the middle of the summer Mr. Malcolm P. Anderson expects to sail for China, where he will be engaged, for the next three years, in collecting mammals for the British Museum.

Mr. R. B. Moran is camping in Santa Barbara county.

Mr. W. W. Price is located at his summer camp, Glen Alpine, Tallac, California.

Mr. P. M. Silloway is in the vicinity of Bigfork, Moutana, for the summer.

The Thirteenth Supplement to the American Ornithologists' Union Check-list of North American Birds, issued with the July *Auk* contains among others the following important changes and additions. *Dendragapus obscurus sierræ* Chapman is added; *Nyctala* Brehm becomes *Cryptoglaux* Richmond; *Sayornis nigricans semiatra* dropped; *Corvus americanus* becomes *C. brachyrhynchos; Scolecophagus* Swainson, preoccupied, becomes *Euphagus* Cassin; *Astragalinus psaltria hesperophilus* Oberholser is added (SW. U. S.); *Pipilo fuscus carolæ* is dropped; *Lanius ludovicianus mearnsi* Ridgway (San Clemente Id.) is added; *Budytes flavus alascensis* Ridgway is added; *Heleodytes brunneicapillus* is replaced by *H. b. couesi*; *Bæolophus inornatus restrictus* Ridgway (vicinity of San Francisco Bay) is added; *Phyllopseustes* Meyer becomes *Acanthopneuste* Blasius; *Dendroica æstiva brewsteri*, and *Heleodytes brunneicapillus anthonyi* are rejected. *Passerculus rostratus halophilus* is equivalent to *P. r. guttatus* in summer plumage. The Ptiliogonatinæ, Miminæ, Sittinæ and Chamæinæ are raised to family rank.